The Valley Forge Record

AND

Washington Chapel Chronicle

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IN MEMORIAM

Within a few short months the Nation lost two great leaders, President Harding and ex-President Wilson. The Nation's loss is in a peculiar sense our loss, for both were members of our Society, interested in its welfare, and in sympathy with its progress. President Wilson was the Society's first Honorary Perpetual Benefactor. After his last Cabinet meeting, Dr. Burk presented the certificate of election, beautifully illuminated by the Reverend Henry Martyn Medary, and the gold insignia of the Society. On this occasion the Society was represented by Muscoe M. Gibson, Esq., the Treasurer of the Society, and Messrs. Henderson Supplee, Francis V. Evanson, Frank Quigg, and the late Frank B. Wonsetler. President Harding was decorated by Dr. Burk at the close of his address at Valley Forge in the presence of over fifteen hundred enthusiastic American citizens. Memorial services were held for both of these great Americans, and their names will be always kept upon our roll of Honor in recognition of their great services to our Nation.

PROGRESS

It has been a full year since the last copy of "The Record" appeared. Had the Society been merely marking time it would have been an easy matter to have kept up the publication. The fact of the case has been that we have been doing too much to write about it. We have been increasing in membership. We have been adding to our collections of books, and records, and relics. We have been incorporated by the State of Pennsylvania, through the splendid services of one of our honored Vice-Presidents, J. Aubrey Anderson, Esq. We have been honored by the Daughters of the British Empire in Pennsylvania, who presented a bronze bust of our Founder and President, Dr. Burk, in recognition of his services to the United States of America and of his efforts to promote the friendship of the English Speaking Peoples. The bust is the work of the talented artist, Beatrice Fox Griffith, whose mother, Mrs. L. Webster Fox, made the speech of presentation. The Honorable Spencer L. Edmonds was the orator of the day. We have been honored again by our good friend, Dr. J. Ackerman Coles, A. B., A. M., M. D., LL.D., who brought to the Society a beautifully colored copy of "Washington and his Generals," by A. H. Ritchie, and an etching of Mount Vernon, by

Robert Shaw. To these notable gifts he added a bronze bust of Washington, a rare replica of the bust made from life by Houdon, and cast by the Tiffany Company. The praises of Dr. Coles are continually sung at Valley Forge, for the wonderful portrait of Washington, by Gilbert Stuart, has been admired by a million Americans since it was hung in the Chapel. Eventually this great picture of Washington will adorn the Washington Memorial Library. (By the way, is it not strange that this great Library has not been built by some patriotic American or group of Americans? After twenty-one years of consideration, there is not even a State Alcove erected.)

Then the money for the Steuben Bay in the Porch of the Allies, Ten Thousand Dollars, was received from Mr. Henry M. Justi. This beautiful stone structure will be built this Spring and will be a memorial of Mr. Justi's father, the late Henry D. Justi. The Bay will make a handsome entrance to the Washington Memorial Chapel and to the Patriots' Hall. The DeKalb and Lafayette Bays should be given at once that we may honor those two great Allies, and carry the Porch over toward the great Thanksgiving Tower, from which the Peace Chime will send forth its inspiring messages of patriotism and peace. Seven of these Bells are already given, the Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York and New Hampshire Bells. That is a story in itself.

Citizens of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties have given several thousand dollars for the purchase of a tract of land for our Halls of History, and we hope to be able to make an important announcement along that line in the near future.

General Henri Joseph Eugene Gouroud, of France, came to Valley Forge on Independence Day and was made an Honorary Perpetual Patron of the Society, being decorated in the Washington Memorial Chapel by Dr. Burk. On the same day the Justice Bell was brought from Independence Hall by the way of the Brandywine Battlefield. Through all the country through which it passed it was greeted with enthusiasm. The casting of this famous Bell, and all its glorious purpose was the thought of Mrs. Charles Ruschenberger, through whose beneficence this replica of the Liberty Bell was given to the Nation, and brought to Valley Forge to add its message to these hills of historic memories.

And the gifts? Space fails us to tell of what Americans are doing to make the Valley Forge Museum of National History the treasure house of American History. From Dr. Guernsey's charming cigar store Indian, captured after a long search, and the remarkable collection of Spanish War badges and medals given by the Philadelphia Executive Council, United Spanish War Veterans, and the comprehensive collection of World War relics given by Captain E. E. Young, down to the most recent gifts of a pair of leggings taken from a dead Indian in Custer's last fight by Frank Musmff and presented in memory of his nephew, William Henry Lyndall, by his widow, Mrs. William Henry Lyndall; and last, but not least, a Valley Forge musket, made by Evans at Valley Forge sometime before the Declaration of Independence, and given to the Society by our generous patron, Mr. J. A. Roberts. With such gifts as these history can never die.

And then the purchases? Here again we must record a long list of

precious heirlooms, of many sorts and kinds, from the homes of the early settlers, from the work shops of the early craftsmen, from farm and forge, relics from the battlefields in America and in Europe, engravings and paintings, like those of Parker, and above all else, the two Washington Cups bought by the Society from Mr. W. Lanier Washington for Thirty-five Hundred Dollars.

And the Patriots' Hall? That is another cheering story. Through the gifts of those generous American Patriots, whose names and gifts we will record in a future paper, we were able to add three large rooms to the Hall, giving us four fire-proof rooms. Two Lupton steel windows were given by Mr. H. A. Poth, and Mr. H. E. Ellston. Four Lupton steel frames, sash and glass were given by the Carter, Donlevy Company. But the greatest gift was a whole load of White Hall Cement! This was the princely gift of Mr. William H. Harding.

Before the freezing weather, walls and floors were built, and then the interior work went forward in preparation for Washington's Birthday. Today the Valley Forge Museum of American History is an institution for which every American may well be thankful. At last we can exhibit some of its treasures, such as the wonderful Schollenberger Collection of china, given several years ago by Mrs. S. R. Bartholomew and Miss Mary White Bartholomew. The large fireproof room with its plate glass cases, and excellent illumination, can hold only a part of the treasures of this great collection. Our Annex is crowded to the doors with priceless relics. 1926, the great Sesqui-Centennial of America's Declaration of Independence is coming on a pace. We ought to be ready for the army of visitors coming in that year from all over the world—WE OUGHT TO BE READY FOR THIS YEAR'S ARMY, WHOSE ADVANCED GUARD ALREADY CROWD OUR ROOMS, NOW, IN BLEAK MARCH.

The Washington Room in Patriots' Hall should be ready for the Fourth of July,—built, furnished, and with Washington's Marquee in its protecting case of bronze and glass. But we must begin NOW. To begin we must have MONEY. But to begin to begin we must have PATRIOTISM.

Real PATRIOTISM will make any American, who reads this story, do and give to the limit for Valley Forge, for the Washington Room and for the Patriots' Hall, and if for these, for our great Republic.

A RARE VALLEY FORGE MUSKET

Mr. J. A. Roberts, of Tuckahoe, New York, has presented to the Valley Forge Historical Society the rarest Valley Forge flint lock musket so far discovered. This musket was made at the Evans Armory at Valley Forge before Washington and his army came here. The gun is 59½ inches long with a barrel 44 inches long, and weighs 8 pounds. On the lock is the mark "Evans," but it also has the mark "C. P." for "Continental Property." The marking "C. P." was used during 1774, 1775 and part of 1776, that is previous to the Declaration of Independence. The Valley Forge Armory was established by Stephen Evans in 1742. This musket was sold at the Walpole Galleries, New York, in January, and was

a part of a remarkably fine collection from the Middle West. Up to the discovery of this earlier Valley Forge musket, the greatest gun in our collection of the products of the Evans Valley Forge Armory was the flint lock musket made at Valley Forge in 1777. This bears the marks "U. S." It was the gift of Mr. Thomas S. Neale, of Norristown. It shows why the British before leaving Valley Forge destroyed the forge and the old armory. At the same sale Dr. Burk secured for the Museum a Valley Forge flint lock musket marked "W. S. Evans, V. Forge 1826," with the mark "U. S." on the lock plate, and another musket bearing the same marks, but differing in length and weight; one gun is 58 inches long, with a barrel 42½ inches and weighs 10 pounds; the other has the same length, but with a barrel 42 inches long, and weighs eight pounds. The story of this old armory will be an interesting chapter in the history of Valley Forge when sufficient data have been secured for it. We want to express here our great appreciation of the generosity of Mr. Roberts, who has also given us the only Valley Forge pistol which we have in our collection. We hope that the members of our Society will make every effort to increase the collection representing this early industry at Valley Forge.

THE NATIONAL CALENDAR OF STATE SUNDAYS

Dr. Burk planned and adopted a National Calendar for the Sunday afternoons at Valley Forge. Every State of the Nation will be commemorated in this National Calendar, and a patriotic service will be held at which the address will cover the services rendered by the State in the development of the Nation. So far the States which have been honored are : Delaware, under the auspices of the Sons of Delaware; Pennsylvania, under the auspices of the Valley Forge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; New Jersey, under the auspices of the New Jersey State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; Georgia, under the auspices of the Georgia State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; Connecticut; Massachusetts; Maryland, under the auspices of the Maryland State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; New Hampshire, under the auspices of the New Hampshire State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; Virginia; New York, under the auspices of the New York State Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. We hope that every State Sunday will be observed under the auspices of one of the patriotic organizations representing the State. We hope also that the funds will be provided, either by these Societies, or by patriotic citizens in the State for the maintenance of the services on the State Sunday. Dr. Burk plans to have the State Flag used on the State Sunday, and carried by a Color Guard wearing the uniform of Washington's Life Guard. So far no State Flag has been used as none has been available. The citizens of every State should see that there is a handsome State Flag presented for this patriotic purpose, and that the uniforms for the Life Guard are also provided. The State Flag will cost from Fifty Dollars to Two Hundred Dollars, according to the way in which it is made and the character of the State Arms. The Daughters of the American Revolution of the District of Columbia have presented the National Standard. It is now car-

ried by the Color Guard on every Sunday afternoon. A complete set of uniforms for the Color Guard with side arms, etc., will cost Two Hundred Dollars. An Endowment Fund of Two Thousand Dollars will cover the regular expenses, but Dr. Burk plans to have the Endowment Fund for each State Sunday in the sum of Five Thousand Dollars, so as to make provision either for special music or for special speakers at these services.

New Jersey has again been to the fore. The Daughters of the American Revolution in New Jersey under the splendid leadership of Mrs. Charles R. Banks, not only paid the expenses of the New Jersey State Sunday, but have gone beyond it so that it has been possible to begin the New Jersey State Sunday Endowment Fund. This is a good example to set before the other States of the Nation. The following will be the schedule of Sundays for the next six weeks:

MARCH

23 North Carolina State Sunday
30 Rhode Island State Sunday

APRIL

6 Vermont State Sunday
13 Kentucky State Sunday
20 Easter Day
27 Tennessee State Sunday

The reports on the amount received for the Washington Cup Fund, and for the Washington Room Fund will be printed in one of our earlier issues, so that every member of the Society may know what is being done.

HUNDREDS AT VALLEY FORGE MUSEUM ON ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTH.

Three New Rooms of Historical Exhibits Opened—Many Valuable Additions to Famous Collections.

(Norristown Times Herald, February 23, 1924)

The Valley Forge Historical Society had a housewarming at Valley Forge, February 22, when it opened its new rooms to the public. There were hundreds of visitors, including patriotic citizens from Virginia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Illinois, New York and New Jersey.

The original room of the historical society has been entirely altered by the erection of permanent cases with large fronts of plate glass. The cases are admirably lighted and the exhibits are of deepest historical interest.

Three new rooms have been added to the museum. These have been built of brick and concrete, and the windows are steel frames with clear, wire glass. In all the rooms fine large permanent cases have been built along lines best adapted for exhibitional purposes.

The largest of the new rooms is devoted to the exhibition of rare old china. The room has been named the Schollenberger Room, as it contains the great collection of rare Staffordshire china callected by the late

Thomas Schollenberger, of Pottsville. This collection was given to the Valley Forge Historical Society by his sister and niece, Mrs. Sarah Bartholomew and Miss Mary W. Bartholomew. The collection is considered by experts to be one of the most notable collections of old English china.

The Schollenberger rooms were thronged with visitors. The lusters or the dark blue china would be enough to make any museum famous, but at Valley Forge there is a wealth of both. The collection of platters is amazing on account of their variety and size.

Indian Exhibits

Adjoining the Schollenberger Room on the first floor is the Indian Room, with cases filled with fine examples of the crafts of the Red Men. The Boy Scouts constantly crowded this room. Among the interesting relics are the boots and spurs, also the sombrero and sash of Buck Taylor, the uncrowned king of the cowboys, and Billy Rentfrow's lariat. The bead work in many forms and an unusual collection of Indian baskets, many of them from the old Staten Island Museum, are features of the exhibit.

On the second floor are the cases in which are shown the relics of three wars—Civil War, Spanish-American War and the World War.

One of the most interesting and attractive collections is that consisting of the costumes purchased by William E. Montague from the Howard Pyle estate—costumes and uniforms of the Revolution.

The society had added to its great Washington collection, in which are his marquee and headquarters standard, two silver cups made for Washington in Philadelphia in 1777, and used by him in his marquee.

The opening of the new rooms marks a great step forward in the work of the Valley Forge Historical Society. In less than six years it has increased in membership from thirteen members to nearly 19,000 men and women, boys and girls.

The same day the Helen Fairchild Post No. 412, of the American Legion, joined the society. President Wilson and President Harding were members of the Society. Chief Justice Taft, General Pershing, Admiral Sims and many other famous American are on its list of members.

With its enlarged museum, the Society will be able to do a greater patriotic work for the nation.

(Norristown Times Herald, February 23, 1924)

1000 BOY SCOUTS IN HISTORIC HILLS

Drummer Boy of Civil War Also Present at Valley Forge Shrine to Pay Tribute

Despite the cold more than 1000 Boy Scouts of Montgomery and Delaware Counties assembled on February 22 in Valley Forge to celebrate Washington's Birthday. Many troops marched to the shrine, one group hiking twenty-one miles.

By 11 o'clock in the morning all troops were assembled and the program for the day started. Marching two abreast, while a civil war

veteran beat the drum, the boys filed through the Washington Memorial Chapel, with hats removed, in silent tribute to the "father of our country."

They then formed outside the chapel, and with the cold winds blowing on them, heard the chapel choir sing several hymns. The Rev. Dr. W. Herbert Burk, founder and rector of the chapel; the Rev. T. A. Armour, scoutmaster of the Conshohocken troop; Major John Lewis Evans, and Edward A. Carlson, scout executive, spoke to the boys.

The services were followed by outdoor sports, and later by dinner prepared by scout cooks.

After dinner the boys who had not already started out on tours of explorations, were divided into five groups, and a sight-seeing tour of all points of historical interest was then begun. Soon the valley was filled with groups of boys of all sizes.

One of the most interesting characters present at the celebration was Rev. T. Asher Hess, drummer boy in the civil war, who was so willing to help that he attended the meeting despite his 52d wedding anniversary. Although he is past 80 years, Rev. Mr. Hess was almost as lively and full of energy as the younger fellows.

THE CHARTER OF THE VALLEY FORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

No. 35. April Term, 1923.

To the Honorable the Judges of said Court:

Be it known that the subscribers having associated themselves together for the purpose of organizing "THE VALLEY FORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY," of Valley Forge in said County and State, and being desirous of becoming incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the Act of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations," approved the 29th day of April, A. D. 1874, and the supplements thereto, do hereby declare that the following are the purposes and conditions for and upon which they desire to be incorporated:

1st. The name of the corporation shall be "THE VALLEY FORGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY."

2d. The purpose for which the corporation is formed is to commemorate the men of Valley Forge, and all who have contributed to the growth and development of the United States of America; to preserve their relics and publish their records; and to maintain and develop the Valley Forge Museum of American History, and the Washington Memorial Library as institutes of history and patriotism.

3d. The place where the business of said corporation is to be transacted is Valley Forge, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

4th. The corporation is to exist perpetually.

5th. The names and residences of subscribers are as follows:

W. Herbert Burk, Defenders' Gate, Valley Forge, Pa.
Arthur Emmons Pearson, West Newton, Massachusetts.
Mrs. Hervey C. Gresh, Norristown, Pa.

Henderson Supplee, Port Kennedy, Pa.
W. H. Reed, Jeffersonville, Pa.
Miss Nina Boreiche Read, Norristown, Pa.
Mrs. Henry Tetlow, Norristown, Pa.
Miss Annie B. Molony, Norristown, Pa.
Miss Esther B. Weinberg, Norristown, Pa.
Frank Quigg, Port Kennedy, Pa.
J. Aubrey Anderson, Esq., Gulph Mills, Pa.
Hon. Rodman Wanamaker, Philadelphia, Pa.
S. L. Gabel, Norristown, Pa.
Irvin P. Knipe, Norristown, Pa.
Anna Lovett Knipe, Norristown, Pa.
Eleanor H. S. Burk, Valley Forge, Pa.
Mary S. Boyd, Norristown, Pa.
James S. Boyd, Norristown, Pa.
Mr. E. Harold Gresh, Norristown, Pa.
Walter Sloane Pearce, Philadelphia, Pa.
Caroline H. Supplee, Port Kennedy, Pa.
William A. Patton, Radnor, Pa.
Magdalena S. Stauffer, Norristown, Pa.
Mrs. S. Col. Summerill, Port Kennedy, Pa.
Mrs. O. LaForrest Perry, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. Charles E. Wolbert, Philadelphia, Pa.
Liberty Bell Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Allentown, Pa. Irene B. Martin, Ex-Regent; Anna M. Grim, Regent.
Irene B. Martin, 11 South 5th Street, Allentown, Pa.
Mrs. Edward Fish, Spring Mill, Pa.
Mrs.. W. H. Reed, Jeffersonville, Pa.
Timius Olsen, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. Louise Stockton Emory, Phoenixville, Pa.
Isaac Reeves, Phoenixville, Pa.
Mrs. Isaac Reeves, Phoenixville, Pa.
Lidie McF. Anderson, Gulf Mills, Pa.
Mrs. Frances Bailey Brown, Norristown, Pa.
Miss Emeline Henry Hooven, Norristown, Pa.
Henry E. Tripler, Norristown, Pa.
Mrs. Lizzie Bruen Tripler, Norristown, Pa.
Mrs. William P. Hearn, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. George Alfred Fletcher, Haverford, Pa.
George Blight Robinson, Philadelphia, Pa.
J. H. Hallman, Norristown, Pa.
Eva R. Klemm, Villa Nova, Pa.
Helen A. Jewel, Villa Nova, Pa.
Mrs. M. D. Owen-Chahoon, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. James S. Rogers, Haverford, Pa.
Mrs. Horace F. Weeks, Rosemont, Pa.
Charles B. Von Eschenbach, Essington, Pa.
Mrs. Linda Hall Davis Schurch, Norristown, Pa.
Josephine W. Anderson Knipe (Mrs. Reinoehl), Norristown, Pa.